



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 28, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: June 27, 2004
CWP WA-CW2604

Southern Spokane County Hit by Hail Storm Hay Harvesting Conditions Were Ideal

Field Crops

A hailstorm hit various crops on Thursday evening in southern Spokane County causing as much as 90-100 percent damage to fields in some areas. Winter wheat and spring cereals were mostly headed. Christmas tree growers continued to report minor heat scorch damage on Noble and Grand fir plantations. Irrigation water supplies improved in Kittitas County, which prompted irrigation districts to increase the amount of water available. Temperatures reached triple digits in some areas of the state, which caused ideal conditions for harvesting hay.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 12% very poor, 15% poor, 33% fair, and 40% good. In Snohomish and King Counties, producers completed a third cutting of grass silage. Livestock sought refuge from the hot summer sun in any shade they could find.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cherry damage reports in Benton County continued to stand at 100 percent damage to the region east of Prosser while the remainder of the county sustained 30-50 percent damage. In Franklin County, some asparagus acreage was removed in response to the announced closing of the cannery in Dayton. Sweet corn planting continued throughout the state. Tomatoes, onions, lettuce, raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, cherries, green peas, and snap peas were being harvested.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	24	75	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Average	7	38	55	0
Subsoil	2	25	72	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Average	2	27	71	0
Irrigation Water	0	7	93	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Average	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	1	3	96	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	89	60	81	76
Winter Wheat Headed	100	92	99	99
Barley Headed	85	50	71	71
Corn Emerged	99	92	99	99
Dry Edible Beans Planted	100	99	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	97	90	95	96
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	16	6	27	25

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	5	25	56	12
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	3	96	1
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	3	33	56	7
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	4	95	1
Barley Dryland	1	2	32	53	12
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	93	7
Potatoes	0	0	4	95	1
Corn	0	0	1	98	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	1	98	1

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: A "thermal blast" permeated the rural landscape, throughout the county early in the week, with temperatures reaching 90 degrees F. Ag producers retreated to shaded areas in order to avoid the intense heat. Both native and cultivated plant material were showing signs of the lack of moisture. Sweet corn growers were challenged with maintaining adequate soil moisture to meet plant growth requirements. The dry conditions and warm temperatures over the past two weeks have been ideal for hay harvest, resulting in excellent quality. Christmas tree growers reported minor heat scorch damage on Noble and Grand fir. Hothouse tomato growers began full scale harvest, with excellent fruit quality. This second week of dry, unseasonably warm temperatures greatly exacerbated tinder dry conditions across the rural landscape and in forested areas. Home gardeners were harvesting green peas, onions, lettuce, raspberries, blueberries and a few remaining strawberries.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Warm, dry weather continued throughout the week, which was good for harvesting hay. Small grains experienced rapid growth, but there was concern about having enough soil moisture for the second half of the growing season.

Kitsap: Dry conditions were causing area farmers to use more irrigation. Production of fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers were weeks ahead of normal. Local strawberries were the featured produce at local Farmer's Markets.

Skagit: Warm, 70 degree temperatures and dry conditions were ideal for berry harvest. Strawberry harvest continued. Some fresh market raspberries and blueberries were being picked. Potatoes were in bloom. The second cutting of alfalfa was harvested. Crops were looking excellent.

San Juan: The warm, dry weather sent haying into full swing

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was warm and sunny. No crop losses were reported.

Snohomish/North King: Temperatures were in the normal range most of the week. A lot of first cutting grass hay and third cutting grass silage were completed. Strawberry harvest was slowing down and raspberry harvest was speeding up. Farmer's Markets were very busy and more local produce was available.

Thurston: A scorching heatwave early in the week forced the majority of ag producers to seek shelter in the shade. Temperatures reaching 90 degrees F. quickly depleted soil moisture with both native and cultivated plants, showing signs of moisture stress. The heat was ideal for curing hay, resulting in most livestock producers getting a premium quality first cutting into the barn. Raspberry harvest was in full swing with strawberry harvest rapidly winding down. Turfgrass growers kept busy trying to maintain adequate soil moisture in newly planted fields. Christmas tree growers reported moderate sunburn damage in some Noble fir plantations. Organic truck farmers reported excellent sales of green peas, onions, lettuce, and cut flowers at Olympia's Farmer's Market. The unusually warm temperatures resulted in early ripening of Weymouth and other blueberry varieties. Growers were harvesting fruit at the end of the week for sale at farmer's markets. Home gardeners kept busy weeding and watering.

Whatcom: Raspberry harvest began and strawberry harvest was winding down. Green chop continued. Temperatures were warm, in the high 70's to the low 80's, with humidity.

Central

Benton: Cherry harvest continued. Apricot harvest was getting ready to begin and asparagus harvest was complete. Very hot weather has kept irrigators busy.

Benton (2nd Report): The hot weather continued. Cherry damage from two weeks ago continued to be reported. Ninety percent of the county, east of Prosser, was in the 100 percent damage area, while the other 10 percent of the county sustained 30-50 percent damage to the cherry crop.

Douglas/Chelan: Cherry harvest was in full swing. Some damage was reported due to last year's freeze and recent rains. Total damage has not been determined. Warm temperatures over 100 degrees were experienced in the Wenatchee area.

Franklin: Warm, dry weather continued. The second cutting of alfalfa was underway. For some growers, it was delayed due to problems with the first cutting. Cherry harvest continued. Pea harvest was nearly complete. Sweet corn was being planted as a second crop in some fields. Some asparagus acreage was being taken out in response to the announced closing of the cannery in Dayton.

Grant: Sweet corn planting continued. Green pea and snap pea harvest

was still underway. High temperatures created crop stress and put high demand on irrigation.

Kittitas: A week of very warm weather helped get the timothy hay out of the field, as producers enjoyed (or suffered through) ideal conditions for curing hay. Corn was about 12 inches high. Livestock could be found in the shade if they had any.

Kittitas (2nd Report): The first cutting of timothy hay neared completion. Cultivating sweet corn fields continued. Range and pastures were in good shape. Irrigation water supplies improved, prompting the irrigation districts to increase the amount of water available.

Okanogan/Ferry: Heavy precipitation was received in portions of the counties on Saturday evening and early Sunday morning, with reports of up to 1.5 inches of rainfall. There were no reports of damage to cherries from this storm. Cherry harvesting was just beginning.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 5 to 15 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Hot, dry conditions persisted most of the week. Winter and spring cereals were headed and waiting for harvest to begin. Overall, winter wheat remained in good to fair condition and spring cereals were mostly in fair condition.

Adams (2nd Report): Heat throughout the early week moved grain crops rapidly along, so the drop in temperature back to normal for the weekend was welcomed. The second cutting of hay started.

Asotin/Garfield: Hot, dry weather conditions dominated the week. Temperatures were near 100 degrees in some areas. The heat caused stress to crops and will likely reduce yield potential.

Lincoln: Hot, dry conditions continued during the week. Winter wheat was headed and spring cereals were mostly headed and waiting for harvest to begin. Overall, the winter wheat remained in mostly good to fair condition and spring cereals were mostly in fair condition.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A very hot week pushed crops along toward maturity. It was good drying weather for the hay producers. Thursday evening, southern Spokane County had a thunderstorm that was very damaging, with up to 3 inches of rain and hail in less than 30 minutes.

From an unofficial survey on Friday, it appeared that some fields experienced a 90-100 percent total loss. Peas were as flat as a table top. The path was approximately three miles wide with damage tapering off from the center. Other parts of the counties received little rain. Parts of the county picked up a tenth of an inch of rain on Sunday morning. Up in Pend Oreille County, rain showers were also present.

Stevens: Haying came to a halt mid-week when thunderstorms moved through the area, with high winds, hail and heavy rainfall. Rains continued throughout the weekend. Grain crops were developing nicely.

Walla Walla: Weather throughout the week was very hot (100 degrees). Crops turned, wind continued making crop spraying difficult. Hay growers had better luck getting hay off fields this time around. Onion harvest was in full swing.

Whitman: Hot weather prevailed throughout the week, but passing thunderstorms brought rain to some areas of the Palouse. Activities across the county included rod weeding summer fallow, spraying operations, cutting hay, and preparing combines and other equipment for harvest. Crop conditions looked very good.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

June 28, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	51	83	62	3	88	18	18	4	0.00	-0.38	0	27.76	-5.58	83	137
Everett	54	80	64	3	96	19	26	11	0.00	-0.42	0	27.23	-6.50	81	146
Hoquiam	48	69	59	1	67	7	2	-5	0.00	-0.42	0	61.15	-3.89	94	172
Kelso	55	82	67	7	123	43	53	32	0.00	-0.41	0	31.08	-12.88	71	121
Olympia	45	88	63	3	90	18	20	6	0.00	-0.33	0	43.97	-4.43	91	152
Sea-Tac	55	87	65	3	108	20	38	14	0.00	-0.31	0	32.82	-2.39	93	130
Shelton	47	85	63	1	92	6	23	-3	0.00	-0.35	0	60.22	-2.38	96	150
Tacoma	54	88	66	4	114	28	44	23	0.00	-0.37	0	30.61	-7.38	81	131
Vancouver	53	89	66	5	114	28	44	19	0.00	-0.31	0	29.76	-9.42	76	144
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	52	99	71	7	147	45	78	39	0.00	-0.10	0	7.36	-0.91	89	85
Omak	53	99	75	12	179	82	109	72	0.00	-0.26	0	10.60	-2.64	80	69
Stampede Pass	47	84	60	10	72	49	22	22	0.00	-0.57	0	69.59	-7.87	90	159
Wenatchee	57	98	80	11	208	73	138	72	0.05	-0.08	1	8.55	0.93	112	76
Yakima AP	48	98	76	10	181	64	111	60	0.01	-0.08	1	6.28	-1.10	85	67
NORTHEAST															
Colville	52	93	73	10	162	68	92	58	0.00	-0.28	0	8.61	-10.55	45	72
Deer Park	45	95	71	8	147	47	77	39	0.14	-0.12	2	17.03	0.17	101	121
Spokane AP	57	93	74	10	170	68	100	61	0.01	-0.25	1	13.16	-1.88	88	106
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	56	96	78	8	201	54	131	53	0.00	-0.07	0	4.85	-1.75	73	64
Moses Lake	56	98	78	7	194	47	124	46	0.00	-0.07	0	5.05	-1.55	77	62
Quincy	56	96	77	10	193	67	123	65	0.00	-0.07	0	4.93	-2.24	69	57
Ritzville	51	97	74	10	173	69	103	63	0.00	-0.14	0	10.16	-0.28	97	73
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	54	101	78	5	200	36	130	35	0.00	-0.07	0	6.38	0.39	107	65
Pasco	52	100	74	4	173	23	105	25	0.04	-0.03	1	7.70	0.77	111	78
Pullman	49	89	69	8	131	50	61	34	0.00	-0.30	0	15.15	-4.22	78	103
Whitman Miss.	52	100	75	8	178	55	108	52	0.01	-0.14	1	16.25	3.62	129	113
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	50	92	71	6	146	40	76	36	0.07	-0.33	1	13.15	-10.47	56	99
Lewiston ID	56	100	77	9	194	56	124	56	0.00	-0.26	0	11.25	0.33	103	93

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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